

REMARKS

Original claims 1-52 were pending in the present application. Claims 26, 38, 49, 50, and 52 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7, 25, 29, and 37 have been amended and new claims 53 and 54 have been added. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-6 and 40-48. Reconsideration of all pending claims in light of the present amendment and the following remarks is earnestly requested.

Claim 29 has been amended to correctly depend from claim 28, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 7 has been rejected as anticipated by Leonhardt et al. (U.S. 6,092,959). Claim 7 has been amended to recite a vehicle that includes a moveable bumper arrangement and features a vehicle component mounted to the vehicle at a front end of the vehicle. A mechanism is attached to the vehicle component and a bumper member is connected to the vehicle component by the mechanism. The mechanism allows substantially translational movement of the bumper member with respect to the vehicle component along a portion of a path of travel allowed by the mechanism. Leonhardt neither teaches nor suggests the vehicle recited by claim 7. The crash cage disclosed by Leonhardt is mounted to a rear end of the vehicle, not at the front end of the vehicle as is recited in claim 7. Leonhardt's crash cage and is movable between a horizontal and vertical position. While such a crash cage may be useful when attached at the rear of a vehicle, the crash cage would not be suitable for use on the front end of a vehicle. For at least these reasons, claim 7 is neither taught nor suggested by Leonhardt and is in condition for allowance. Claims 8-24 that depend from claim 7 are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the features of claim 26. Claim 26 was objected to as depending from a rejected claim but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore claim 25, which has been amended to be equivalent to claim 26 in independent form, is in condition for allowance. Claims 27-36 that depend from claim 25 are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 37 has been amended to include the features of claim 38. Claim 37 was objected to as depending from a rejected claim but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore claim 37, which has been amended to be equivalent to claim 38 in independent

form, is in condition for allowance. Claim 39 that depends from claim 37 is also in condition for allowance.

Claim 51 was not indicated as allowed, however, claim 51 depends from allowed claim 42. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 51 is in condition for allowance.

New claim 53 is presented. Claim 53 is claim 9 rewritten in independent form. Claim 9 was objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore claim 53 is in condition for allowance.

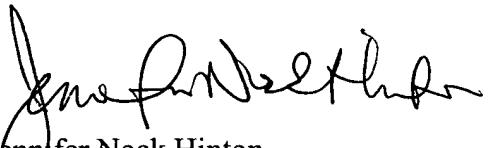
New claim 54 is presented. New claim 54 recites a vehicle that includes at least one wheel axle and features a moveable bumper arrangement. The bumper arrangement includes a vehicle component, a mechanism attached to the vehicle component, and a bumper member connected to the vehicle component by the mechanism. The mechanism allows substantially translational movement of the bumper member with respect to the vehicle component along a portion of a path of travel allowed by the mechanism. The path of travel is substantially parallel to the wheel axle. Applicant submits that a mechanism that allows translational movement of a bumper parallel to a wheel axle is neither taught nor suggested by the art of record. Claim 54 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing discussion it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are patentably distinct from the prior art and each from the other and this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0630 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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